

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Conference on the Finance Bill.

THE AMENDMENTS AGREED UPON.

THE PASSAGE OF THE NEW MILITIA BILL.

The French Marching on Sonora.

RECONNOISSANCE UP THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

Gunboat Fight with a Rebel Battery.

THE BATTERY SILENCED IN TWO HOURS.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION GAINED.

Reports by the Crew of the Isaac Smith.

THE GERMAN SOLDIERS AND THE COPPERHEADS.

Patriotic Address to the President.

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Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

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New-York Tribune

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1863. PRICE THREE CENTS.

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A SCOW SENT THROUGH THE CANAL.

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THE BATTLE OF STONE RIVER.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF GEN. ROSECRANS.

Heroism of the Army of the Cumberland.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, 1

GENERAL: As the reports of the battle of Stone River are now nearly all in, I have the honor to submit, for the information of the General-in-Chief, the following report, with accompanying sub-reports, maps and statistical tables of the battle of Stone River. To a proper understanding of this battle, it will be necessary to state the preliminary movements and preparations.

Assuming command of the army at Louisville on the 27th day of October, I was found concentrated at Bowling Green and Glasgow, distant about 113 miles from Louisville, whence, after replenishing with ammunition, supplies and clothing, they moved on to Nashville, the advance corps reaching that place on the morning of the 7th of November, a distance of 183 miles from Louisville.

At this distance from my base of supplies the first thing to be done was to provide for the subsistence of the troops and open the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The cars commenced running through on the 26th of November, previous to which time our supplies had been brought by rail to Mitchellville, 35 miles north of Nashville, and thence, by emigrant labor, we had been able to haul enough to replenish the exhausted stores for the garrison at Nashville, and sustain the troops of the moving army.

From the 26th of November to the 30th of December every effort was made to expedite the clearing of the army, to provide it with ammunition, and replenish the depot at Nashville with needed supplies to insure us against want from the largest possible detention likely to occur by the breaking of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad; and to insure this work the road was guarded by a heavy force posted at Gallatin.

The enormous superiority in numbers of the Rebel cavalry kept our little cavalry force busy, and the infantry line, and gave us every control of the entire country around us. It was obvious from the beginning that we should be confronted by Bragg's army, recruited by an inexorable conscription, and aided by close of mounted men, formed into a guerrilla-like cavalry, to avoid the hardships of conscription and infantry service. The evident difficulties and labors of an advance into this country, and against a well-armed and experienced force, from a point of operations, with which we were connected by a single precarious thread, made it manifest that our policy was to induce the enemy to travel over as much as possible of the space that separated us thus avoiding for us the wear and tear and diminution of our forces, and subjecting the enemy to all the inconveniences, beside increasing for him, and diminishing for us, the dangerous consequences of a defeat.

The means taken to obtain this end were entirely successful; the enemy, expecting us to go into winter quarters at Murfreesboro, with the hope of possibly making them at Nashville, and had sent a large cavalry force into Tennessee to annoy Grant; and another large force into Kentucky to break up the railroad. In the absence of these forces, and with adequate supplies in Nashville, the means were used of opportunity for an advance on the Rebel. To the end of the 10th of November, the forces were at Murfreesboro, and Hardee's corps on the Shelbyville and Nashville Pike, between Trane and Nashville, with an advance guard at Nashville, while no troops lay in front at Nashville, on the Franklin, Nashville and Murfreesboro Turnpike. The plan of the movements was as follows:

McCook, with three divisions, to advance by Nashville pike to Trane. Thomas, with two divisions (Negley's and Rosecrans's) to advance on his right by the Franklin and Wilson pike, threatening Hardee's right, and then to fall in by the cross roads to Nashville.

Crittenden, with Wood's, Palmer's, and Van Cleve's divisions, to advance by the Murfreesboro pike to Leverage.

William Howard, with two divisions at Nashville, McCook was to attack Hardee at Trane, and the enemy retreated. Hardee, Thomas was to support McCook.

If McCook beat Hardee, or Hardee retreated, and the enemy met us at Stewart's Creek, five miles south of Leverage, Crittenden was to attack him. Thomas was to come in on his left flank, and McCook, after attacking Hardee, was to come forward to support Hardee if retreating south, was to move with the remainder of his force on their rear.

The movement began on the morning of Dec. 25. McCook advanced on Nashville Pike skirmishing his way all day, meeting with slight resistance from cavalry and artillery, and closing the day by a brisk fight, which gave him possession of Nashville and the high ground on which he placed a pile of rails that he had cut off on the 10th of October, and 15th of November, his loss that day being about 75 killed and wounded.

Thomas followed, on the right, and closed Negley's Division on Nashville, leaving the other (Rosecrans's) Division on the right flank.

Crittenden advanced to Leverage, skirmishing heavily on his front over a rough country, intersected by forests and cedar brakes, with but slight loss.

On the 26th, Gen. Crittenden advanced on Trane, but his movement was retarded by a dense fog.

Crittenden had orders to delay his movement until McCook had reached Trane and developed the intentions of the enemy at that point, so that it could be determined which Thomas was to support.

McCook, after attacking Hardee, and seeing that Hardee had retreated, and that he had sent a division in pursuit.

Crittenden began his advance about 11 o'clock, a. m., driving before him a brigade of cavalry, supported by Murrays' brigade of Rebel infantry, and reached Stewart's Creek, the 3d Kentucky gallantly charging the rear guard of the enemy and saving the bridge, on which had been placed a pile of rails that he had cut off on the 10th of October, and 15th of November, his loss that day being about 75 killed and wounded.

McCook moving retreating, the fact of Hardee's retreat, Thomas moved Negley's Division on to join Crittenden at Stewart's Creek, and moved Rosecrans's Division to Nashville.

On Sunday the troops rested, except Rosecrans's Division, which was ordered to move on to Stewart's Creek, on the main Murfreesboro pike, and Negley's Division, which was ordered to move on to Hardee's position, and to hold the bridge, meeting with but slight resistance.

Crittenden's corps advanced, Palmer leading, on the Murfreesboro Pike, followed by Negley, of Thomas's corps, to within three miles of Murfreesboro, having and several brisk skirmishes, driving the enemy rapidly, saving two bridges on the route, and forcing the enemy back to his intrenchments.

About 3 p. m., a signal was given for the front, from Gen. Palmer, that he was in sight of Murfreesboro, and the enemy were running, an order was sent to Gen. Crittenden to send a division to occupy Murfreesboro.

This led Gen. Crittenden, on reaching the enemy's front, to order Harker's Brigade to cross the river at a ford on the left, where he surprised a regiment of Breckinridge's Division, and drove it back on its flank, but more than five hundred yards distant from the front, from Gen. Palmer, that he was in sight of Murfreesboro, and the enemy were running, an order was sent to Gen. Crittenden to send a division to occupy Murfreesboro.

On Monday morning McCook was ordered to move from Trane to Williams' Crossroads, six miles from Murfreesboro, leaving a brigade at Trane.

Crittenden crossed Stewart's Creek by the Smyrna bridge, on the main Murfreesboro pike, and Negley's Division, which was ordered to move on to Hardee's position, and to hold the bridge, meeting with but slight resistance.

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